

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/055,625

Applicant(s)

MARQUARDT ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Michael P. Stafira

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 8/21/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10-45.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 June 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.  
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)5 ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance9 ☐ Other

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 10-45 are allowed over the prior art of record.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 10, 26 the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious an optical immersion probe having a first gasket seated inside the probe tip at the first opening such that the opening of the gasket is aligned with the first opening of the probe tip and a second gasket seated inside the probe tip on top of and in contact with the spherical lens, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claims 10, 26. Claims 11-25, 27-36,44,45 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claims 10.

Regarding claim 37, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious an optical immersion probe having a first o-ring seated inside the probe tip at the first opening such that the opening of the gasket is aligned with the first opening of the probe tip, and a second o-ring seated inside of the probe tip on top of the spherical lens, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 37. Claims 38-43 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 37.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Stafira whose telephone number is 703-308-4837. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/10.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on 703-308-4881. The fax phone numbers for the

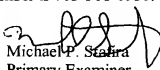
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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7721 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

  
Michael P. Stadira  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2877

October 27, 2003